

# ROAD: Blasting Will Delay Traffic

(Continued from Page 1)

sometime later this year," said Buss. According to UDOT officials, the next section will include the stretch of road from Murdock Canal to Wildwood.

When work is completed on the first section, there will be two lanes of traffic going each direction and an overpass over the Canyon Road. "The overpass will allow for free movement of traffic off of 800 North and up the canyon. There will also be free movement of traffic off the Canyon Road and onto 800 North.

"The only conflict will be people who will be coming up the canyon and wishing to turn onto 800 North. They will have to yield to traffic coming down the canyon," said Buss.

Heavy equipment has been in the area for a week but extensive work is not yet underway. "We have an 'electric forest' up here that has got to be moved before we can really get started. UP&L will be relocating it for us. It has been a scheduling nightmare to have to work around. We are also dealing with six different irrigation companies that have canals and ditches we have to work around," he said.

Work will include widening 800 N. from State Street to 600 E., by putting two lanes of traffic in each direction with a left turn lane in the center, he said. Four bridges will be constructed during the project, Buss said, "Three across the Provo River and one for UP&L for access into the

Hales Plant."

Blasting of the rock walls on the south side of the road will begin next week and UDOT officials are asking people to avoid coming into the canyon unless it is necessary. "We have put warning signs up on 800 N. and one in Heber City to keep people away. And to give them a chance to take an alternate route if they don't necessarily have to come down or go up the canyon," said Buss.

The project should take 200 working days, but Buss said that will be adjusted because of the need to work around the removal of utilities. "When work gets going full swing we will probably have 75 to 100 people working here. There will be 500,000 yards of excavation done and we anticipate have construction done in the summer of next year," said Buss.

Flooding this spring will not delay the project, according to Buss. "We will not be entering the river at all and I don't anticipate any flooding holding us up unless it is really severe," he said.

Because of the danger when blasting begins, Buss is asking fishermen to stay out of the area from the Murdock Diversion south to the Hales Power Plant. "There will be a lot of blasting going on and it could be dangerous for anyone in the canyon area that might be fishing. The public could really help us by avoiding the area if at all possible," said Buss.